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ancestors in their houses, but when they were going on a journey, or to do anything of importance, they always sacrificed to the remains of their forefathers. As to cannibals he had met a tribe, called the *Bushy*, who were eaters of human flesh, and he knew them to pack the flesh of their prisoners in hampers similar to that shown by M. Du Chaillu, and carry it some days for the purpose of food. With regard to the small-pox, he would ask M. Du Chaillu if the natives inoculated for that disease?

M. DU CHAILLU.—No.

Mr. J. CRAWFORD said he agreed with nearly all that M. Du Chaillu had stated; but with respect to the dwarfs forming a distinct tribe, he confessed he could not admit that part of his narrative. He would ask M. Du Chaillu if it was not possible that they might belong to the same race as the tribes around them, and had been expelled from the villages because they were dwarfs, in the manner that prevails among some Eastern nations: as in the case of lepers, who are confined to villages set apart for them, a practice followed also by the Jews under the Levitical law? But M. Du Chaillu had not stated whether these dwarfs differed from the surrounding tribes in any other respect than in stature, or whether they spoke a different language.

M. DU CHAILLU said the natives of Equatorial Western Africa have longish woolly hair, while these dwarfs have very short hair on the top of their heads. They look like the Bushmen of South Africa. It was difficult to say more. They were so afraid of him that he could get very little information, but he had carefully measured several individuals and had recorded the observations in his Journal, which would soon be published.

Fifth Meeting, Jan. 22nd, 1866.

VISCOUNT STRANGFORD, VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESERVATION.—*J. H. Lydall, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*John R. Andrews, Esq.; Henry Walter Bates, Esq.; Algernon S. Bicknell, Esq.; Samuel Bowring, Esq.; Francis Collison, Esq.; Frederick E. Davis, Esq.; Charles Henry Gatty, Esq., M.A.; Richard Musgrave Harvey, Esq.; Archibald J. Little, Esq.; J. H. Lydall, Esq.; James Dyce Nicol, Esq., M.P.; T. Valentine Robins, Esq.; Captain W. Rooke, R.A.; Charles Sholl, Esq., C.E.; Arthur Keppel Cowell Stepney, Esq.; Alfred Wilkinson, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING, JAN. 8TH, 1866.—‘Victoria Falls, Zambezi River,’ folio, by Thomas Baines, Esq. ‘Verba Nominalia; or Words derived from Proper Names,’ by R. S. Charnock, Esq., Ph.D. ‘Sur la Structure en éventail du Mont Blanc,’ par M. Alphonse Favre. All presented by the Authors. ‘An Accurate Description of Persia, and the various Provinces thereof,’ date 1673, by John Ogilby, Esq. Presented by John Power, Esq., F.R.G.S. ‘A History of the Island of Dominica,’ by Thomas Atwood, Esq. ‘Histoire de l’Égypte sous le Gouvernement de Mohammed-Aly,’ par M. Felix Mengin. Both added to the Society’s Library by purchase. Continuations of Journals, Transactions, &c.

ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM.—A Map of Metropolitan Railways and Improvements. A Map of the Thames Embankment and proposed New Streets. Presented by E. Stanford, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN said, before the Secretary read the papers he had an important communication to make, which had been entrusted to him by the President of the Society, whose absence that evening he regretted. It had reference to the search which it is proposed to institute for further traces of that gallant and distinguished explorer, Dr. Leichhardt, or for remains of his expedition. The first journey of this great traveller, for which he received the Gold Medal of the Society, was undertaken from the then nascent colony of Moreton Bay, now called Queensland, towards Port Essington. Subsequently, in 1848, he undertook the colossal geographical exploit of traversing the whole of the Australian continent from east to west—from Queensland to Swan River. From his very first start on that expedition down to a very recent time, no trace whatever has been found of him. The present project of search had originated in consequence of certain discoveries which had been made by Mr. McIntyre, who, in traversing the continent in search of pastoral lands from south to north, had lighted upon two marked trees on the banks of the Flinders River, which had given rise to the idea that the search for Leichhardt would not be a hopeless undertaking. The proposal has been taken up by three of the Australian colonies in a national sense, and each colony has subscribed in the most munificent manner towards the expedition. The project of search has been received in a similar way, nationally, to that with which we took up the search for Sir John Franklin. By an unanimous resolution the Council of the Royal Geographical Society have subscribed 200*l.* out of its funds in order to assist. This expedition has already started from Melbourne, under the leadership of Mr. McIntyre, who, from his previous experience in Australia and his general ability, if any man in the world can do it, seems to be the man who would lead it to a successful termination. The President, Sir Roderick Murchison, is most warmly interested in the matter, and had desired him to announce that a public subscription would shortly be opened at the Society's rooms, and also at Messrs. Coutts, and Messrs. Cocks and Biddulph, bankers.

The following papers were read :—

1. *Description of the District of Cape York, Australia.* By JOHN JAEDINE, Esq., Police Magistrate, Somerset, Cape York.

THIS paper was a detailed description of the neighbourhood of Somerset, the new settlement at Cape York, built on the shores of the channel which separates York Peninsula from Albany Island in Torres Straits. The peninsula proper is a tract of land about 15 miles in length, separated from the rest of the mainland by Kennedy River, which stretches nearly across the neck of land between Newcastle Bay and the western coast. The land is hilly, and in the valleys the soil is a reddish loam, more or less sandy; but on the ridges luxuriant vegetation and beautiful flowers cover the large blocks of ferruginous sandstone. Very little of the land is suitable for agriculture; the grass is long and coarse; horses and cattle keep their condition fairly, but the country is quite unsuited to sheep; goats may be kept with advantage, and pigs find an